

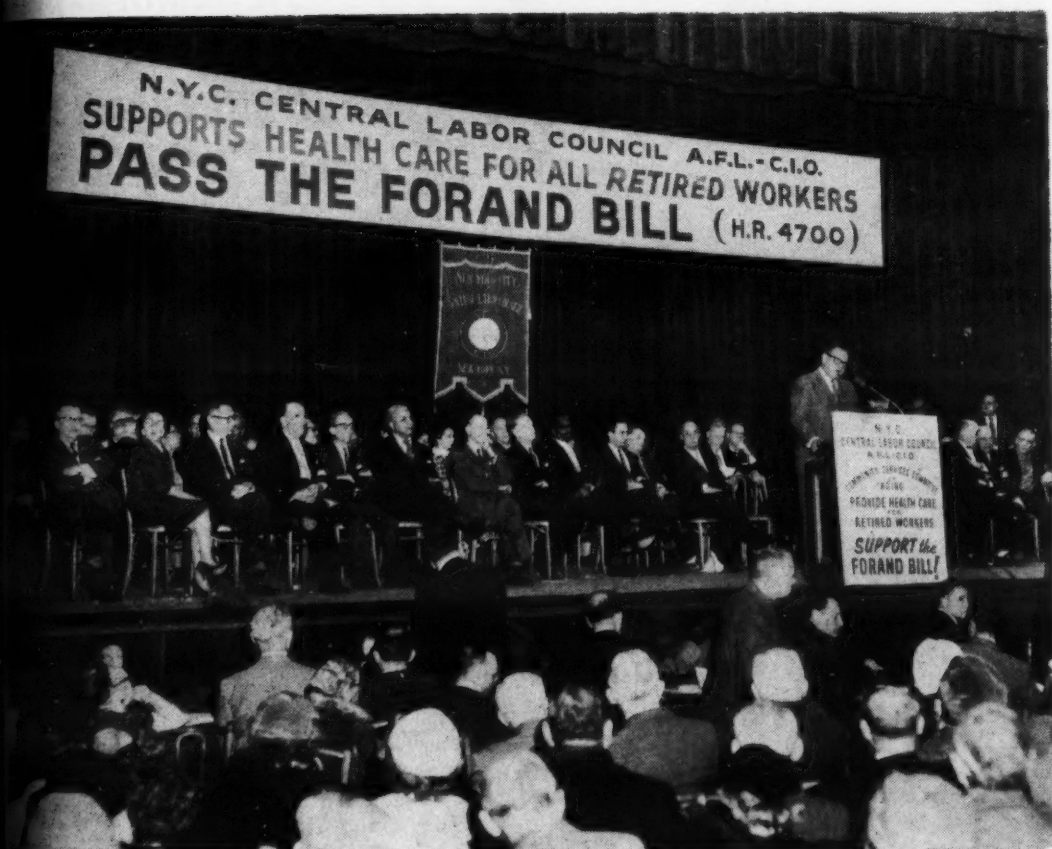
# LOCAL I-S NEWS

*for department store workers*

Vol. XI No. 7

APRIL 1, 1960

## Labor Rally Says: Pass Forand Bill!



AN ESTIMATED 10,000 union retirees and fellow unionists rallied at Manhattan Center in support of the Forand Bill. AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer William Schnitzer (at lectern) told listeners to write letters to Congressmen and sign petitions demanding passage of the proposed law which will provide health insurance for the aged.

## New Union Executive Board Members Inducted Into Office

Some 65 members of the Local I-S Executive Board, newly elected and re-elected at the recent series of divisional meetings, have been inducted into office for two-year terms.

They had been elected at the last-attended meetings in the 20-year history of the Union, thereby reflecting the most complete consensus of the will of Local I-S. The Executive Board is comprised of floor committee members from every section of the 34th Street area, and the Union officers. At the Executive Board on March 29, they collectively received the oath of office from Pres. Sam Kovenetsky. First Vice President Phil Hoffstein, board chairman, presided.

After the induction ceremony, the meeting proceeded with the customary order of business.

After the new members were introduced, Financial Secretary Ceil Curry read the financial re-

port, and correspondence was read.

Ed Dillard, reporting for the COPE Committee noted that the group had prepared and distributed fact sheets and leaflets on current issues in Washington and

### More Congressmen Answer Message of Local I-S President

Responding to a communication from Pres. Sam Kovenetsky on a \$1.25 minimum wage law, letters from New York Congressmen are continuing to come to the Union Office.

Excerpts from the latest three are as follows:

**Cong. Ludwig Teller:** "I have read the newspaper enclosure in your letter of March 3 with interest and profit.

"As you know, I favor a national minimum wage of \$1.25,

(Continued on page 2)

Albany, Local I-S had participated in the Manhattan Center rally for the Forand Bill. And, he noted, a giant N.Y. AFL-CIO rally would be held on May 18 in Madison Square Garden to further support the bill for health for the aged.

On May 17, a huge street rally to support civil rights will be held at 38th Street and 7th Avenue. Further details will be announced. A review of current labor legislation in Albany was also given.

**Pres. Kovenetsky endorsed the civil rights rally, which will be sponsored by the N.Y.C. AFL-CIO. He requested the Board to work actively to obtain a maximum turnout of Local I-S members.**

A resolution was presented on the subject of AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany's remarks about Cong. Adam C. Powell. There was general discussion, and the resolution was tabled.

(Continued on page 2)

Over 50 retired members of Local I-S joined with some 10,000 union retirees and others in a huge rally to support the Forand Bill. The mass meeting was sponsored by the New York Central Labor Council at Manhattan Center.

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer William Schnitzer castigated the American Medical Association as "the one formidable enemy standing in the way" of passage of the Forand Bill which would provide medical and hospital benefits to people eligible for Social Security.

### Union Visitors to Deborah Hospital Must Sign Up Now

Local I-S members who wish to visit Deborah Hospital as part of the Union delegation are advised by Ceil Curry, chairman of the Social Services Committee, that they must register their names by April 15 at the Union Office.

The Union group will visit the hospital, which is famous for its treatment of chest diseases, on Sunday, May 1. The group will assemble at the Union Office at 9:30 A.M., and leave on a chartered bus.

At Deborah Hospital in Browns Mills, N. J., the Local I-S group will dedicate a bed which the Union has endowed.

During the course of their visit, the Union visitors will inspect the hospital facilities, have lunch, and hear a review of Deborah's accomplishments.

The union delegation is expected to return to New York by 6 or 7 P.M.

### Look Who Opposes Forand Bill!

Opposition to the Forand Bill has cropped up in an unexpected place, among a group of Indiana undertakers.

Rep. Forand introduced into the Congressional Record a resolution by the Indiana Funeral Directors Association urging defeat of his bill to provide medical care for the aged.

Forand declared he had expected the organized opposition of the American Medical Association, the National Association of Manufacturers, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the commercial insurance lobby, but said the morticians' action surprised him.

"Could it be," Forand asked, "that undertakers are opposed to good health?"

"We all know about the wonderful new discoveries of science in the field of medicine," the AFL-CIO leader declared. But what good are these advances when they are priced beyond the reach of the great majority of retired workers?"

The Local I-S retirees attended the enthusiastic rally in response to a letter sent out by the COPE Committee. Vice Pres. Phil Hoffstein and Administrator Charles Boyd welcomed some of the Local I-S retirees.

Mayor Robert F. Wagner called the Forand Bill "the logical and necessary extension of this great Social Security System," and pledged his backing for it.

Dr. George Baehr, former HIP president, attacked the arguments of commercial insurance companies against the Forand Bill. He declared that the insurance industry is guilty of "falsifying statistics."

Meanwhile, Rep. Aime Forand (D.-R. I.), sponsor of the bill, and Rep. Seymour Halpern (R.-N. Y.), declared on an AFL-CIO radio program that they believe the majority of the American people wanted health insurance under the Social Security program.

**Rep. Halpern said, "Public sentiment, I believe, can be the deciding factor in this issue. The people should let their Congressmen and Senators and the Administration know how they feel about this (Forand) bill. And they should emphasize that this legislation is needed now, not tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow."**

Rep. Forand said that despite the attitude of most people, "we seem to have difficulty getting action." The bill is presently before the House Ways and Means Committee.

Regarding the issue of American Medical Association opposition to the Forand Bill, Rep. Forand said he had stacks of letters from doctors "who have said to me I am on the right path." Rep. Halpern also cited the widespread support of individual physicians for the proposed legislation.



# New Union Executive Board Members Inducted Into Office

(Continued from page 1)

All arrangements for the Hawaii-California Tour have been completed, Jerry Harte reported. A meeting of the Local 1-S tourists is scheduled for April 6.

There is still room for a few more union tourists.

The Camera Club now has 19 members. The group meets twice a month, and new members are welcome.

A Union delegation will visit Deborah Hospital on Sunday, May 1 to dedicate a bed endowed by Local 1-S. All union members are invited to join the group, and reservations must be made at the Union Office by April 15.

Harry Liebowitz reported on the disposition of two cases conducted by the Trial Committee.

The N.Y. AFL-CIO Camp Program, led by Pres. Kovenetsky, was reviewed by Administrator Frank Milza. Some 60 youngsters of Local 1-S members as well as numerous other children of N.Y. trade unionists will enjoy two-week summer camp vacations. A meeting of parents will be held on April 27.

Placements at the various camps will be made next month, he said. Administrator Milza also noted

that a Union Label Convention would be held late in May. Pres. Kovenetsky later suggested that Local 1-S be represented at the meeting.

A committee was set up to look into the possibility of a pension program for the officers and staff.

Pres. Kovenetsky, in his report and in other remarks, told the Board members that trade unionists in Local 1-S and other unions, were looking for leadership. He cited the great success of the For and Bill rally which far out-reached the pessimistic expectations of some.

The newly-scheduled monthly Stewards' meetings are intended to activate union leadership at the departmental level. And he looked for action and spirit by the Board members and stewards in furthering Union goals.

Pres. Kovenetsky also reported:

- None of the straight commission people wished to accept a Macy proposal for a drawing account after holidays and leaves.
- He was invited by the L.I. Federation of Labor to attend a meeting to consider purchase of Hempstead Hospital. A very large sum of money is involved. The local medical society is strongly



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opposed to labor administering the hospital, and rival financial offers are expected.

- Monthly Stewards' Meetings will follow Board meetings. The stewards will be asked to participate fully in implementing union policies and stimulating membership activity.
- Suggestions in regard to the new union Newsletter will be welcome.
- The possibility of a Local 1-S cooperative housing project in Manhattan should be explored. Under existing laws, and in view of other unions' experience, such

# Alert Member Nails Exec Unloading Stock Truck

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty; so wrote Thomas Jefferson. Eternal vigilance is also the price of justice on the job, as defined by the union contract.

Leroy F. Taylor, Sub-Basement, noted that Supervisor Gishman was removing merchandise from a truck. Since such work should be done by a staff employee, and had moreover never been done in that department under any circum-

stances, Leroy naturally filed a grievance. Receiving no satisfaction from the response of Thomas Robinson, Receiving Supervisor, Administrator Frank Milza took up the matter with Macy's Labor Relations. There was some palaver about the fact that executives do check through Order Backs, which is obviously necessary and desirable. But the point was whether an executive can remove them from a truck.

On this point, it was acknowledged that Mr. Gishman was wrong, and his action would not happen again.

A project could be financially practicable, and meet the housing needs of many Local 1-S members. A committee was appointed to look into the details.

- Progress was being made on member delinquency.
- The defeat of District 65 in the NLRB representation at the Stern's unit in Bergen, N.J. was being weighed in connection with Local 1-S organizational activity at Bamberger's in Paramus.

Committees were appointed in the following areas of union activities: COPE, Activities, Blood Bank, Housing, Delinquency, Union Label; and also delegates to the N.Y. Central Labor Council.

Membership of the Board committees will be announced in the next issue of the Union newspaper.

## UN Health Experts Agree Cigarettes Cause Lung Cancer

Seven international health experts of the World Health Organization, a U.N. agency, agree that cigarette smoking is a major cause of lung cancer.

The international health agency group said that "the sum total of the evidence available today" could be interpreted as indicating that cigarette smoking was the major factor in the incidence of the disease. Air pollution could also be a contributory factor, they said.

The group based its reports on studies made in the United States and other parts of the world.

## More Congressmen Answer Message of Local 1-S President

(Continued from page 1)

and I have introduced a bill to such effect."

Cong. Adam C. Powell: "I agree with your position on this proposal and you may be assured of my full support."

Cong. Francis E. Dorn: "I am, of course, very much in favor of such legislation and have introduced a bill providing for this raise (from \$1.00 to \$1.25 an hour)."

The "score" to date on the Congressmen's responses is now:

For \$1.25 wage and extended coverage . . . 12  
Noncommittal (Ain't sayin') . . . 4  
Against . . . None,  
but there are still many Congressmen who have not answered, and we're curious why.

## LOCAL 1-S EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

SAM KOVENETSKY, *President*

PHIL HOFFSTEIN, *First Vice President*

BILL ATKINSON, *Second Vice President*

DEBBY VALENCIA, *Recording Secretary*

CEIL CURRY, *Financial Secretary*

### BRANCH AREAS

Flatbush

DOROTHY LICHTENSTEIN, *Chairman*  
FRED KRAMER, *Vice Chairman*  
ALFRED PERRONE, *Secretary*

Parkchester

ANDREW FELICCIA, *Chairman*  
LOUIS CIRELLI, *Vice Chairman*  
CATHERINE HALLAHAN, *Secretary*

Jamaica

ANTHONY LASALVIA, *Chairman*  
SALVATORE TREZZA, *Vice Chairman*  
MARGARET BURNS, *Secretary*

White Plains

THOMAS MELELLA, *Chairman*  
ANGELO SELINO, *Vice Chairman*  
THOMAS MANGIERI, *Secretary*

### 34th ST. AREA

Beauty Salon

JOSEPH PASCARELLA, *Chairman*

Comparison

MADELINE LAWDER, *Chairman*

Basement

JAMES ZICCARDI, *Chairman*  
E. E. JENNINGS, *Vice Chairman*  
SARA WARREN, *Secretary*

Adv. & B. of S.

CHARLES DE GEORGE, *Chairman*

1st floor

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LOUELLA GAMBLER, *Vice Chairman*  
REX MEZZA, *Secretary*

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VIDAL TORRES, *Chairman*

2nd floor

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SAM SHIELDS, *Vice Chairman*  
FREDA BARNETT, *Secretary*

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SYLVIA TEMPLE, *Chairman*  
IRENE RICE, *Vice Chairman*  
CARMELA GRAVINO, *Secretary*

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MICHAEL POPICH, *Vice Chairman*  
LEON WILLIAMS, *Secretary*

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FRANCES CAVICCHI, *Vice Chairman*  
LILLIAN OLIVER, *Secretary*

4th floor

MOLLIE ATTARDI, *Chairman*  
BEATRICE MONTGOMERY, *Vice Chairman*

ASD

BERTHA MIRSKY, *Chairman*  
OLIVE FERGUSON, *Vice Chairman*  
ANTONIA MARANZANO, *Secretary*

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IRVING SMOOKE, *Vice Chairman*  
MARGE WILSON, *Secretary*

Alt. & Rep. & Supply

HARRY LEIBOWITZ, *Chairman*  
LILLIAN MILLS, *Vice Chairman*

6th floor

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NICHOLAS RUSSO, *Vice Chairman*  
NORMAN MENDELSON, *Secretary*

Housekeeping

PATRICK RYAN, *Chairman*  
RAYMOND PEER, *Vice Chairman*

7th floor

DAVID GREENBERG, *Chairman*  
E. JOSEPH BARESE, *Vice Chairman*  
JAMES DE PROSSINO, *Secretary*

Passenger Elevators

BENJAMIN MEYERS, *Chairman*

8th floor

DOROTHEA ANDREWS, *Chairman*  
TRAYSIA WILLIAMSON, *Vice Chairman*  
MARGARET KENNEDY, *Secretary*

Food

CHRISTIAN RYAN, *Chairman*  
EVANS S. JUDSON, *Vice Chairman*  
ROSE NOVAK, *Secretary*

9th floor

MATTHEW ROSENTHAL, *Chairman*

Packing

OLIVER GARRETT, *Chairman*  
HARRIETTE FRAZIER, *Vice Chairman*  
CARMEN SERRANO, *Secretary*

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RICHARD TAUSZ, *Chairman*  
ERNEST ROUSE, *Vice Chairman*  
EDGAR DILLARD, *Secretary*

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to  
COPE!**

**See Your  
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or Shop Steward!**



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## Worth Talking About

BY PRESIDENT SAM KOVENETSKY

At Christmas time, you may remember, our Union sent modest gifts to our retired members. We received in response at least fifty or sixty letters saying, thank you. Well, most people write such notes when they receive something.

Yet it touched us deeply, those of us who read the notes, that many retirees expressed the thought that they were so happy that the Union remembered them still. Although retired, out of the swim, out of the daily grind, they were still part of our Union family. And they knew the Union fought for their interests and well-being.

From a human point of view, how could we do otherwise? The retirees are people we have known so many years; who have been members of our Union, who have contributed to its strength. These are people who have contributed many years of faithful service to Macy's. Why shouldn't their employer give them decent pensions, and who else will fight for these pensions if not the Union?

Moreover, from a broad social point of view, our retirees are part of a great 13,000,000-section of the population to whom our country owes an easing of the burden of old age.

In 1936, the United States finally followed a precedent established decades and generations before in England, the Scandinavian countries, Germany and France. Social Security was established here, and the American people—workers and employers alike—paid their way. This was no handout. This was a social insurance system.

The unions, of course, knew that Social Security alone was inadequate. Pensions had to be won under union contracts. We in Local 1-S won our first pension plan in 1949. It was based on the premise that the combined Social Security of that period and the union-won pension should amount to \$100 a month. Not a great deal, perhaps. But at least that was as much as we could win at the time. And this contrasts with a company pension program which often paid about \$3 a month.

Nevertheless, the great majority of the American people were not covered by union pension plans. So we had to fight for continual improvements in Social Security.

We have now focused our efforts on passage of the Forand Bill. This proposed law would extend the Social Security system for all. It would provide hospital, nursing home and specified surgical care. This has been the great gap in Social Security. The illnesses of old age involve fantastic medical costs which our senior citizens cannot afford to pay. For all the talk about prosperity, the older people are among the poorest, the least secure in American society.

The American labor movement is doing a notable job in rallying support of its members and others for the Forand Bill. Congress is receiving an avalanche of mail in its support, and Local 1-S members are sending at least their share.

Back in 1936, the die-hards and blow-hards described Social Security as "socialism." Today, the same elements—the American Medical Association, the Chambers of Commerce, etc.—are saying that the Forand Bill is "socialized medicine."

What fakers these reactionaries are! They wave their tattered, old banners of outworn ideologies, like primitive medicine men, as though to scare demons away.

No less a figure than the President of the United States opposes the principle of the Forand Bill, with the same arguments used 25 years ago. And this from a man who has never paid a medical bill in his entire adult life! This from a man who, like all Congressmen and many other public officials, enjoys government-sponsored medical care at famed Walter Reed Hospital and other government-supported medical institutions.

Some of our political leaders have given indications of turning the Forand Bill into a "political football." I hope they will not. Aiding our older people, protecting their security and health—these are at the very heart of the meaning of America.

Protecting the nation from the varied threats of the Soviet Union is not, or should not be, a "political" issue. It is a national issue. In the same way, protecting our older citizens from the terrors and insecurity of poverty and ill health should be a national issue.

The enormous interest in the Forand Bill, and many other measures, community programs, and even travel projects, are a sign of our increasing social maturity as a nation. The AMA's and C of C's are fighting every inch of the way. Good, old Ike who has a magnificent Pennsylvania farm to retire to, is dragging his feet. But I think the American people will march ahead, despite him and despite them.

## Executive Abuses Member; Gets Macy Slap on Wrist

The double standard in personal behavior has existed a long time in Macy's; and the Union is getting pretty tired of it.

Latest example involves abusive language by one M. L. Kaminsky, a supervisor in the Picture Dept., who is known as quick-tempered and irascible. Here's the way Local 1-S member Corrinne Soares relates the story in her grievance:

"On the morning of March 8, we were told by Mr. Kaminsky that we may be given stock assignments. Having worked in several other departments where stock work was assigned to all clerks, I asked (at the morning meeting in question), were the part-timers ever responsible for stock in this department.

"(The question) was asked without malicious intent. I have never been contrary to doing stock work in this department or any others.

"This is the manner in which Mr. Kaminsky answered me. He replied, 'Goddamn it! This stock has to be done, and if you don't want to do stock work, apply for a position from eleven to four-thirty.

And why don't you keep your big mouth shut!"

"I merely asked a question. Is this the way in which I should be answered?"

At the first step of the Union grievance procedure, Mr. Kaminsky did not question the facts as stated. "He simply wrote in response, 'My choice of words was ill-advised.'"

However, the supervisor's scribble of seven words on the grievance was not satisfactory, not at all. This was not adequate redress for public abuse in front of departmental meeting.

Later the division superintendent, Frank Quigley put down his answer which again did not challenge the facts of the case.

Administrator Charles Boyd therefore took up the issue with the 16th Floor. He noted that Union members had been suspended when guilty of rude behavior and abusive language, far less abusive in manner and intent than in Mr. Kaminsky's case. Administrator Boyd demanded that Mr. Kaminsky apologize in the presence of the department since this was the situation in which the assistant buyer had been abusive.

Labor Relations agreed that the buyer had been utterly wrong, and

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said that Mr. Kaminsky had been spoken to, and steps would be taken to make sure that such behavior did not happen again. Labor Relations declined to specify what steps.

The moral is abundantly clear for all stewards. If any supervisor deals improperly with any union member, write up a grievance! Only by following up each case can the union make clear that, if management takes no disciplinary action to prevent abuse of the staff, the union staff at least will recognize how measurably such a supervisor has impaired his usefulness.

## 50-cent Tickets for Movies Available; Aid Fair Housing

Movie bargain tickets to the Brandt neighborhood theatres are still available at the Union Office, and will continue to be available during April and May.

Costing only 50 cents each, tickets are good for a single admission at any time during the calendar month. Proceeds go to the National Committee Against Discrimination which, together with the New York State Committee Against Discrimination, its affiliate, have fought for fair housing legislation and for equal housing opportunity for all people.

Tickets are good for the Beacon, Midtown, Brandt's 76th Street, Avenue B, Earle and Strand Theatres. They represent a real bargain in movie going, and help an important cause. Get your tickets today!

## Ban On Recognition Picketing Is Upset By Supreme Court

The U. S. Supreme Court, in a far-reaching decision, has unanimously over-ruled the National Labor Relations Board ban against recognition picketing by a union which did not yet have a majority workers.

The court held that Teamster Union picketing of this character at a furniture store in Washington in 1955 was legal.

The NLRB had maintained for years the position that such picketing was an unfair labor practice under the Taft-Hartley Law.

The high court said that Congress had not intended the NLRB to use Taft-Hartley as a weapon against peaceful recognition picketing. Since the advent of the Eisenhower Administration, NLRB rulings have been attacked by labor as reflecting business and anti-labor attitudes.

## Letters to the Editor

### PROMPT PAYMENT

There aren't words enough to express my very deep appreciation for your wonderful well-wishes, your lovely gift and your prompt re-payment to the blood bank at St. Francis Hospital.

I want to thank you for the prompt payment of my anesthetist's bill. It's at a time like this that you're grateful for all your wonderful friends and, most assuredly, for Local 1-S.

JEAN RODRIGUEZ  
P 19-50

### LIKES DOCTOR

I am enclosing corrected forms, and want to express thanks and appreciation on behalf of my husband and myself for our wonderful Health Plan.

We were most delighted with the services of (the Union-recommended doctor) . . .

ROSE DEUTSCH  
F 10-50

### ALSO LIKES DOCTOR

I wish to express my gratitude to the Local 1-S Health Plan for the services rendered in my recent illness.

Also to thank (the Union-recommended doctor) for his expert attention.

SYLVIA COHEN  
RMMA-23

### THANKS TO CO-WORKER

I wish to say thanks to my co-workers from my husband and myself for their kind inquiries during his recent illness and hospitalization.

Also for the cooperation I received in arranging my days off and vacation during that time. We are deeply grateful for the benefits received through the Health Plan.

ANN KILCULLEN  
F 3-03

### Husband Appreciative

My husband joins me in extending our thanks to you for

issuing the transfer of his Blue Cross contract. We have received a check for the refund. We both appreciate your cooperation and good will in this matter.

Our very best wishes to you.  
ANNE CILURSU  
CDK-2150

### A PRIVILEGE

I should like to take this opportunity to thank you, twofold for your thoughtfulness during my recent trouble, first, for the wonderful sympathy card sent me after my Mother's death, secondly for the get well card, and gift sent me after my recent operation.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to be a member of Local 1-S.

DORIS SHOMAKER  
P12-04

### GREAT BENEFITS

I want to express my deep appreciation for the kindness and attention I received from Local 1-S during my recent illness.

More than ever did I realize the great benefits too of the GHI, without which I would have been confronted with a big problem.

I wish to thank everybody for the good wishes extended to me and earnestly hope to be back to work soon when I may see my friends again.

ELIZABETH PALM

### FROM FORMER MEMBERS

Although no longer working in the store I enjoy reading all the news in your paper, and look forward to its arrival each time.

As usual I am enclosing check in the amount of \$2.00 to cover a subscription for the year to the newspaper leaving \$1.00 to be donated to the welfare fund or to any other good cause you may deem suitable.

Please give my regards to Mr. Kovenetsky and all the others in the office who may know me.

JEMIMA SPILICH

### LOCAL 1-S NEWS

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RWDSU, AFL-CIO

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# AFL-CIO Steps Up Drive For \$1.25 Minimum Wage

The AFL-CIO President and Research Director fired a massive volley of arguments for a \$1.25 minimum wage and extended coverage as they keynoted labor testimony before the House Labor Subcommittee on Labor Standards.

"What kind of 'freedom from want' does a man have at \$1.00 an hour," Pres. George Meany asked, referring to the present Federal wage minimum. "What kind of 'freedom from fear'?"

Making clear that the AFL-CIO demanded both the wage increase and extended coverage, including some 4,000,000 retail workers, Pres. Meany declared, "We want to cover the big department stores, the far-flung chains—the operations that comprise a small fraction of the ownership but that do a huge proportion of the dollar volume." The retail giants can well afford to pay a \$1.25 minimum wage, he made clear.

Stanley H. Rutenberg, AFL-CIO Research Director, presented a definitive 10-point statement on the need and feasibility of an updated Fair Labor Practices Law.

Speaking in support of the Roosevelt bill in the House, he said that the bill would extend coverage to 100,000 retail businesses, using the yardstick of \$500,000 annual sales.

These firms represent only 6 per cent of the retail enterprises in the country, but employ two-thirds of all the uncovered wage and salary workers in retailing, he said.

The Roosevelt bill would bring about 4,000,000 retail workers under the minimum wage law. About half of these, he estimated, earn less than \$1.25 an hour. Research Director Rutenberg emphasized that an improved minimum wage law would result in putting idle capacity to work in home furnishings, appliances, apparel and food industries.

President Meany raised the question, "How can we live with our consciences when we know that millions of our fellow citizens can't earn enough, working full time and overtime, to provide themselves with food, clothing and shelter?"

He added: "In all frankness, if an enterprise cannot survive except by paying wages of 75 cents or \$1.00 an hour, I am perfectly willing for it to go out of business. . . . It is not an asset, it is a liability."

Rutenberg's 10-point analysis made the following points:

- The present law does not cover 20,000,000 workers who should be, including 7,000,000 in

retailing, and 4,000,000 in service trades.

- Uncovered workers lag further and further behind the rising wage pattern.

- Decent personal and family living standards are simply impossible for uncovered workers. The \$1.25 wage would barely cover the living cost of a single woman.

- The states have not been able or willing to provide enough minimum wage protection. In 21 states, there is no minimum. In others it is absurdly low, out of date or limited to few industries.

- The Eisenhower Administration bill is inadequate. Fewer than 1 per cent of retail enterprises would be covered, and it is loaded with gimmicks.

- The Administration is unjustifiably pessimistic about adverse economic effects of an increased minimum wage. Actually, low-wage communities benefitted when the last increase was passed. And total employment and firms

in business have continued to mount.

- If Congress merely updates wages in conformity with increased cost of living and higher national productivity, it has to raise the minimum to \$1.25.

- An increase to \$1.25 would simply be keeping pace with the over-all advance in the U.S. wage structure.

- The increase would involve no "substantial curtailment in employment or earning power" which is the test suggested by the present law. The minimum would increase the total payroll only about 1 per cent, but would increase buying power of low income families by nearly \$2½ billions a year.

- Experience with past wage improvements show that they are not inflationary. When the minimum wage was raised from 75 cents to \$1.00, the U.S. Dept. of Labor reported no noticeable effect on the nation's consumer or wholesale price levels.

## North Carolina Labor Backs Negro Student Sitdowners

The North Carolina State AFL-CIO has thrown the support of its more than 35,000 members behind the Negro students staging "sit-in" strikes throughout the South to protest segregation in public eating places.

The more than 200 delegates to the state body's third annual state convention unanimously approved a resolution expressing "approval of the efforts" of Negro student groups to win equal rights and condemned "unwarranted police actions" being carried out against the peaceful protest.

In one of the most strongly worded civil rights resolutions ever adopted by a labor organization in the South, the convention declared:

"The American labor movement has always stood for the rights of human beings, regardless of race, color or creed.

"American labor recognizes that the rights of minority groups are now being denied in a variety of areas such as the various public facilities, in employment opportunities and in the equal availability of good housing."

The delegates applauded the protest demonstrations being carried out by the Negro students in an effort to win desegregated lunch counter service, declaring that the students are using "peaceful labor techniques such as the

picket line, the sit-down and the consumer boycott for equal rights in public facilities."

Mass arrests of Negroes participating in the "sit-in" strikes at public eating places in North Carolina and other Southern states, the resolution said, constitute "violations of rights of American citizens to free speech and assembly."

However, arrests and convictions of the student sitdowners continued in North Carolina and other Southern states as the "Local 1-S NEWS" went to press. In Raleigh, N.C., 43 Negro students charged with trespassing during lunch counter protests were convicted and fined. At the same time, 113 Negro students in Concord, N.C. made a protest march through a department store basement protesting the segregated lunch counter.

Similar protests continued in Marshall, Tex. where 25 Negro college students were arrested. However, they were released after police had talked to them at headquarters. Eight Negro students were arrested in Baton Rouge, La., and four were fined in Nashville, Tenn.

In the meanwhile, an interracial, inter-faith movement in San Antonio has resulted in integration of lunch counters in five of six downtown chain stores in that major Texas city.

## New Labor Songbook Records Struggles Of American Unions

A new, 208-page volume celebrating and documenting the labor movement's struggles in America and the fight for freedom around the world has just been published.

"Songs of Work and Freedom" by Edith Fowke and Joe Glazer contains the words and music to 100 songs from the 14th Century to the present. But it is not just another songbook.

Each song contains detailed notes tracing its origin, the circumstances under which it was first sung and what's happened to it since. Five years of gathering and researching the material went into the volume.

Miss Fowke is a noted Canadian folklore specialist; Glazer is well known as a union folk singer and as education director of the United Rubber Workers.

The book includes all the popular trade union songs, "work" songs from all over and the songs of "no work" of the breadlines and the soup kitchens.

Newest song in the collection is "Automation" written by Glazer and describing a factory worker's horror when he comes to work one day and finds that everyone—including the boss—has been replaced by a machine.

Copies of "Songs of Work and Freedom" are available from the Labor Education Division of Roosevelt University, 430 South Michigan, Chicago 5, Ill. at \$2 for the soft cover edition and \$5 for the hard cover book.

## 4 Gala Prizes for COPE Campaigners Planned

Local 1-S COPE Campaigners will have an opportunity to win a handsome prize as part of the Union's all-out COPE membership drive.

Three major prizes will be donated after a drawing at the annual Steward's Conference. All members who have bought a COPE membership will be eligible for a "lucky number."

First prize will be a stereo high fidelity phonograph. Second prize will be a fine 35mm. camera. And third prize will be a Savings Bond or Gift Certificate.

In addition to these, a fine transistor radio will be given to the person who has sold the most COPE memberships.

These prizes should whet the appetites of the Local 1-S COPE campaigners. However, the current drive is doing very well, far ahead of the '56 and '58 COPE campaigns at a similar stage in the drives.

Whereas in past years, it is reported, some members were not so enthusiastic about making their contributions to COPE, the political arm of American labor, nowadays all the Union members seem to have learned the lesson that unions can lose in the political arena what they have won at the negotiating table.

## Time Off to Vote Undercut by Action Of State Assembly

The New York State Assembly has voted, in effect, to kill the 64-year-old law which gives working people two hours' time off on Election Day to vote. As the "Local 1-S NEWS" went to press, the bill was before the state Senate.

The Assembly-approved bill would require time off only if a worker could not get to the polls outside working hours.

The effect of such a law, favored by the Republican majority in the Assembly over Democratic opposition, would be to cut down substantially the number of working people who vote.

A telegram was sent to Gov. Rockefeller by Pres. Kovenetsky urging defeat and/or veto of the measure.

**MEDICAL PLAN**—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist, optometrist or podiatrist nearest you CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4210 (Night or Day) when the Union Office is closed. Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

Full information on benefits and regulations can be obtained from the health plan consultant at the union. Members are also asked to remind their doctors that all claim forms must be returned to the Local 1-S office.

**BLOOD BANK**—If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540.

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